



Common Core Implementation Team (CCIT)

The Blast!

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Read Across America Week! We can all agree that while this week is for reading children's books and wearing funny hats, every day is a good day for reading, including historical documents. Since it is National Women's History month, consider registering for a **National Archives webinar** on the NJDOE Calendar of Events and learn valuable classroom strategies for using primary sources.

While reading is important, my team and I have also been honing our listening skills. On March 8th, the final public hearing on the **NJ Standards Review process** will be held at Camden County College. The public testimony given March 8th, and at the two February public hearings, will be considered for incorporation into the final English language arts and mathematics standards revisions.

On February 4th, we listened while an excited audience of thirty-three pilot program districts kicked off their introduction to the **Blended Online Learning Modules (BOLM)**. District teams gathered with their coaches at NJPSA/FEA to learn to navigate the innovative delivery system for this free, interactive professional learning experience. Want to see what the excitement is all about? Find the modules on NJ CORE.

We are continuing to build the number of teaching and learning resources on NJCORE, so be sure to sign up for an account and explore all the features of the site. Check the NJCORE homepage for new resources added to the toolkits.

With another PARCC administration on the horizon, we have listened to districts and are continuing our well-received "Conversations Around PARCC" to support your conversation around curriculum and instruction. Look for a session posted soon on the <u>Calendar of Events</u> entitled "PARC Data: Conversations That Drive the Cycle of Teaching and Learning."

See you in April, and, in the meantime, listen for the sounds of an early spring!

Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer Division of Teaching and Learning





Division HIGHLIGHT

<u>Update on NJ Standards</u> <u>Review</u>

What's new at NJCORE.org

ELA and MATH Resources

STEM Resources

Social Studies Resources

ELL Resources

NJDOE Assessments

Professional Learning

Further Reading

You Are the Resource

Grants and Opportunities



Division's Office Highlights (top)

This month the Blast highlights the **NJ Amistad Commission**, an office and curricular partner within the Division, directed by **Stephanie James Harris**.

The Amistad Bill (A1301) became law in 2002 and requires the state's public, private and charter schools to incorporate African-American history into their social studies curriculum. This legislation also created the Amistad Commission, a 23-member body which includes Commissioner David Hespe, charged with ensuring that African-American history, contributions and experiences are adequately taught in the state's classrooms.

The goals of the Amistad Commission are to:

- infuse the history of Africans and African-Americans into the social studies curriculum in order to provide an accurate, complete and inclusive history;
- 2) ensure that NJ teachers are equipped to effectively teach the revised social studies core curriculum content standards; and
- create and coordinate workshops, seminars, institutes, memorials and events which raise public awareness about the importance of the history of African-Americans to the growth and development of American society in a global context.

In regular meetings among its commissioners, and through the work of its staff, the Commission surveys and inventories educational programs, materials and curricula being used to teach American history in NJ schools. They also liaison with textbook publishers, schools, resource organizations and federal and state legislators to ensure that American history curricula are consistent with the commission's goals. In addition, the staff maintains a directory of volunteer and professional consultants who can share their knowledge of African-American's roles in American history.

For more about the Commission and to access their web-based curricular resources in ELA and social studies, visit The Amistad Interactive Curriculum.



NJ Standards Review Update (top)

Three public hearings were scheduled to allow for stakeholder comments on the Standards Committee proposed revisions to the NJ ELA and Mathematics standards. The committee presented their recommendations at the January 11th NJ State Board of Education meeting. To read the proposed revisions, go to the NJ Standards Review website.

Note: To attend or speak at the last public hearing on March 8th at Camden County College, register <u>here</u>.





Have you NJCORE'd today?! Don't be left out of the action at NJ CORE where resources for your classroom and professional learning are ready to be accessed. Register as a user, upload your favorite resources, and add your ratings to help others find what they need on NJ's Collaborative Online Resource Exchange. Don't forget to look for the Blended Online Learning Modules in the Professional Learning toolkit on the homepage.

New Jersey Department of Education

is on Facebook!

Visit and see what we're up to!





Resources for NJ Academic Standards

Be sure to visit NJ CORE for these and other newly uploaded resources!



Academy of American Poets Classroom Resources

In honor of World Poetry Day on March 21st, and in preparation for National Poetry Month in April, explore this <u>website</u> by the Academy of American Poets for teacher resources. According to the website, most of the site's elementary and secondary lesson plans are aligned to the ELA standards, and all have been reviewed by their <u>Educator in Residence</u> "with an eye toward developing skills of perception and imagination."

Graphite Website by Common Sense Education

GraphiteTM is a free website by Common Sense Education which offers resources reviewed according to a rubric by a panel of educators. The website is "designed to help preK-12 educators discover, use, and share the best apps, games, websites, and digital curricula for their students by providing unbiased, rigorous ratings and practical insights from our active community of teachers." The site also offers access to free standards-aligned lessons in all content areas.



Amazon Education's With Math I Can Initiative

Amazon Education has launched the <u>With Math I</u> <u>Can initiative</u> to encourage parents, students, and teachers to pledge they will replace thoughts of "I'm not good at math" with a "growth mindset." The site provides a variety of resources, including classroom lessons to develop a "growth mindset" in students. Find strategies for building student awareness about the role of math in daily living and career goals.



NJDOE High School Model Science Curricula

The Model Science Curricula for high school chemistry, biology, and physics are now available at the NJDOE website below. K-5 course outlines and a limited number of K-5 units are also available. All K-5 model science units will be posted by June 30, 2016.

NGSS February 2016 NOW Newsletter

Look on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) website for the latest NOW newsletter with suggestions for implementing the new standards and resources for the classroom.





Library of Congress Women's History Resources

The Library of Congress offers free primary sources and related classroom learning activities for educators. On this <u>webpage</u>, find resources related to National Women's History Month, including lesson plans, print materials, photographs, and webcasts.

Women's History Month Resources

This <u>website</u> provides a comprehensive overview of teaching resources on women's history available through a host of government agencies. The list of sources includes the National Endowment for the Humanities and National Gallery of Art.

The Constitution Center Resources

The Constitution Center was established by Congress "to disseminate information about the US Constitution on a nonpartisan basis in order to increase the awareness and understanding of the Constitution." The <u>website</u> contains resources for elementary, middle and secondary school classrooms.



Bilingual/ESL Education (top)

WIDA and K-12 Can Do Descriptors

WIDA supports academic language development and achievement for linguistically diverse students through standards, assessments, research, and professional development. This <u>website</u> offers free access to the newly release K–12 Can Do Descriptors and related materials.



NJDOE Assessments Webpage

Visit this NJDOE <u>webpage</u> for the District Toolkit of Resources to communicate with parents about PARCC.

UnderstandTheScore.org by PARCC

This PARCC <u>website</u> helps parents understand their child's score report and progress toward meeting grade level expectations and mastering skills.

Broadcast Memo on PARCC Portfolio Appeals

This Broadcast memo provides details on the <u>PARCC Portfolio Appeals process</u> which districts follow for students who have not successfully completed graduation requirements through standard state assessments. The time period for submitting appeals extends through Friday, May 13th.

PARCC's Partnership Resource Center

At the PARCC Partnership Resource Center, find scoring rubrics, as well as scored and annotated samples of students' work. The site also offers PARCC's new Test Builder tool to use the released items to build local assessments. To access NJ data, click the person icon on the top right and create a new account. On the new account page, enter the requested NJ code: NJ1787



FREE Professional Learning (top)

NJDOE Science Workshops for 2016

A series of regional professional development sessions are scheduled to support teachers as they translate Model Science Curriculum units into local curriculum. Visit the <u>Calendar of Events</u> to register for appropriate sessions.

Office of Career Readiness March Workshops

This broadcast memo describes the regional <u>Career Ready Practices workshops</u> offered in March. These sessions will provide an overview of the practices, and also highlight available classroom ready resources, activities and tools to support implementation

NJDOE Bilingual/ESL 2016 Workshops

The Bureau of ESL/Bilingual Education is offering professional development for district staff working with ELL students. Register here.



Free National Archives Webinar Series

This NJDOE Broadcast memo announces free National Archives Webinars on the use of primary sources. See the memo below for webinars scheduled for March, April and May.

Primary Source Webinars

Primary Source is a nonprofit organization working to advance global education in schools. On this website, find free webinars offered in March to help bring global education into the classroom.

ASCD Webinars for March

Check for free upcoming and archived webinars on the ASCD website.



Further Reading (top)

CCSSO Webpage on ESSA Law and Resources

The Council of Chief State School Officials (CCSSO) has created a <u>website</u> to provide information on the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), as well as resources for educators, parents and community members. The latest addition is a set of responses to frequently posed questions by states as they prepare to implement ESSA.

NJDOE's NJ Educator Connection

The *NJ Educator Connection* is the NJDOE newsletter for teachers covering timely and relevant information. Subscribe to receive the newsletter by e-mail, and find archived and current issues at the website.





YOU are the Resource! (top)

Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow Contest

Samsung invites schools to enter the <u>Solve for Tomorrow</u> challenge to raise interest in STEM through possible award share of up to \$2 million in technology products. The contest ends **May 1, 2016.**

ASCD Education Leadership (EL) Journal

Editors are seeking manuscripts for the September 2016 issue of Education leadership with a theme of "Relationships First." Teachers are invited to <u>submit</u> articles on "how teachers can nurture relationships—even with oppositional students, struggling students, and those who prefer to hide." Deadline for submissions is **April 1, 2016**.

Grants & Opportunities for Teachers and Students (top)

ARISS 2017 Contact Opportunity for Students

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) and U.S. partners will open a window for proposals from formal and informal educational institutions and organizations in the U.S. seeking to host an Amateur Radio contact with a crew member on board the ISS during 2017. For proposal information and more details go to the website. The proposal window ends on April 15, 2016

Nominate a K-6 Teacher for the PAEMST

Nominate a K-6 teacher for the <u>Presidential Awards</u> for <u>Excellence in Mathematics and Science</u> <u>Teaching (PAEMST).</u> Awardees are recognized as leaders in improving mathematics and science education. They will receive \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation, as well as attend special events and professional development opportunities. Deadline for nominations is **April 1**, and applications must be submitted by **May 1, 2016.**

Before you go....



How else can we help you? Contact us!

Know someone who needs The Blast? Send them to our Blast sign-up page!

Missing a CCIT Blast mailing? Go to the CCIT Blast Archives!